FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NICARAGUAN DELEGATE ACCUSES IDB OF DISCRIMINATION

PA260309 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0050 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] San Jose, 25 Mar (DPA) -- The Nicaraguan delegate today accused the IDB of "discriminating against his country in the granting of loans." The accusation was made by Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro within the framework of a broad statement presented at the assembly of IDB governors, which is being held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Cuadra Chamorro said that "for the past 3 and 1/2 years Nicaragua has not received credits from the IDB." He explained that a Nicaraguan request for credit for an agricultural development program, presented 3 and 1/2 years ago, was returned after the IDB pointed out that it had to be updated. Cuadra Chamorro added that "if we update it now (the request) they may tell us in another 3 and 1/2 years that it must be updated again." The Nicaraguan delegate pointed to the United States as "a country that wants to make the IDB its own credit agency."

BCIE TO RECEIVE EXTRAREGIONAL CAPITAL

PA262205 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] An agreement has been signed for the participation of extraregional countries in the Central American Bank of Economic Integration [BCIE]. Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic will make a contribution to the social capital of this regional financial institution. It has been said that the financing of economic and social projects will help to consolidate peace in Central America.

The agreement for the participation of Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic in the BCIE's social capital was signed in the Colonial Room of the Costa Rica Hotel yesterday. The document was signed within the framework of the 27th annual assembly of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank, currently being held in San Jose; it will end today at 1800.

The financing of economic and social projects in Central America will help consolidate peace in Central America. The declaration stresses the political willingness of those governments to participate in the BCIE's capital as extraregional members. The intention is to strengthen the regional financial institution both administratively and financially, and in this manner support the Central American countries' socio-economic development.

The document noted that this multilateral effort is aimed at supplying the BCIE with the necessary means and conditions to finance economic and social projects that will help in consolidating peace and development in the region.

DEPUTY CAFIERO CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN C.A.

PY312149 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Mar 86 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Central American crisis was the subject of two presentations last week in Congress and an interview where Lower House Second Vice-President Antonio Cafiero (Peronist-Buenos Aires) condemned the United States intervention in Nicaragua. Cafiero, who travelled to Nicaragua in January, stated that U.S. policy towards Nicaragua will eventually "backfire against its own interests" because "modern conscience does not accept... intervention in the internal affairs of another country." But he added that Nicaragua's Sandinista government "also has its weaknesses with respect to our understanding of the pluralist and democratic Latin American spirit" in statements to Radio Belgrano.

Senator Ricardo Laferriere (Radical-Entre Rios) presented a bill to request funds from the U.S. government to finance Contadora Group peace initiatives for the region as a response to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's 100-million-dollar aid package to help the Contras in their fight against the Sandinists. The Contadora group would be obliged to inform the U.S. how the money was being spent. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Adolfo Gass (Radical-Buenos Aires) supported Laferriere's bill, arguing that it may not succeed in the international arena but anyhow it will cause an impact.

Deputy Miguel Monserrat (Intransigent-Buenos Aires) presented a bill requesting that the government inform the House about an alleged arms sale to the government of Guatemala, claiming that the sale would violate the treaty signed in Punta del Este by the Contadora Support Group, which includes Argentina. Monserrat's presentation was based on a news story that appeared in the latest edition of El Porteno magazine.

In other Congress news, Senator Olijela del Valle Rivas will present a bill next Wednesday to declare the province of Tucuman a national emergency zone due to the current crisis of the sugar industry, and Lower House Speaker Juan Carlos Pugliese (Radical-Buenos Aires) received a request to expel Deputy Herminio Iglesias (Peronist-Buenos Aires) from former policeman Carlos Alberto Hours, who considers that Iglesias lacks the "capacity and integrity" to sit in parliament. Hours testified in the trial against nine former commanders-in-chief for human rights violations.

Finally Deputy Onofre Briz de Sanchez (Peronist-Chaco) has threatened to resign her seat unless the youth, women and family committee begin a "comparative study" of the divorce draft bill now in Congress after hearing out "all sectors of society with a fixed position."

CUBAN OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TRADE, FOREIGN DEBT

PY311610 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1554 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Catamarca, 30 Mar (TELAM) -- Jose Cruz Gonzalez, Cuba's first secretary for political affairs, has said here that we are on our way to achieving "Latin American integration," which is one of our greatest aspirations.

Cruz Gonzalez added that we are fulfilling this goal regardless of our ability or inability to overcome the crisis stemming from the foreign debt and the unbalanced trade between the developed and the underdeveloped countries. Therefore, we are also striving to build a more just economic order.

The Cuban official, who is visiting Catamarca at the invitation of the provincial government, has met with Governor Ramon Eduardo Saadi and provincial Economy Minister Silvestre Zitelli. After the meeting, Cruz Gonzalez said that his visit to Catamarca reflects the closer ties between Cuba and Argentina and that bilateral relations have been promoted by a cultural, commercial, credit, air transportation, scientific, and technological cooperation agreement signed in 1983, when democracy was restored in Argentina.

Concerning the possibility of Cuba and Catamarca signing bilateral agreements, Cruz Gonzalez said that his country is interested in purchasing manufactured products, specifically farm products like soybeans, onions, and garlic. The Cuban official said that his country can cooperate with development projects, especially in the sugar, citrus, fisheries, health, and education sectors, and in biotechnological research, adding that Cuba's cooperation in these areas is available to Third World countries. Cuba's GNP grew by 7.3 percent over the last 5-year period. No Latin American country has been able to match this figure, except for Brazil in 1985.

Cruz Gonzalez admitted that the world's sugar industry is going through a crisis, because the purchasing power of 1 kg of sugar has substantially decreased over the past 20 years. He added that Cuba has not been hit by the sugar crisis because of its growing production, which last year reached 8 million tons, and because Cuba sells sugar to the socialist countries, which have agreed to pay higher prices.

Concerning the Cuban foreign debt, he said that his country owes some $3 billion, not to the IMF but to European banks, and that the creditors have agreed to the conditions imposed by the Cuban Government, which will repay its debt within its possibilities, relying mostly on its sugar exports. Finally, he said that the agreement with the European creditors was reached despite U.S. pressure.

METALWORKING INDUSTRY SENDS DELEGATION TO CUBA

PY292141 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1615 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tucuman, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- The Tucuman Chamber of Metalworking Industries has reported that a trade mission made up of representatives from local enterprises and from Salta and Jujuy Provinces will depart for Cuba on Monday, 31 March. The Chamber reported that this will be a private mission, which will not represent any governmental organization and wil seek to establish contacts with Cuban enterprises that might be interested in sugar industry equipment, machinery, and agricultural tools.

In a communique, the chamber stated that our country has thus far based its position on the international market in its traditional role as an exporter of raw materials, that is, it continues to base its growth on resources obtained from the Pampa region and it continues to have a heavy deficit in its balance of payments current accounts. The chamber then emphasized the need for the manufacturing industry to have a responsible, coherent participation in the effort to promote exports.

BANZER, ADN TO CONTINUE PACT FOR DEMOCRACY

PY311405 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Former President Hugo Banzer Suarez has said that his party has decided to continue supporting the pact for democracy, hoping to strengthen it. Banzer made this statement during a press conference last weekend. Banzer Suarez began the press conference by discussing his tour through Brazil, Spain, Italy, and France. He then referred to the current political and economic situation of the country. He talked about the pact for democracy that he signed with Victor Paz Estenssoro [words indistinct].

[Begin recording] The party leadership has decided to continue supporting the pact for democracy because we believe that it is more important than individuals, even groups of individuals, such as the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]. The pact is useful. It is currently useful because it gives the impression of political stability, because it discourages destabilizing efforts, and because it contributes in the economic aspect to relative tranquillity. We support it because it serves the country. [end recording]

Hugo Banzer Suarez also explained that his party has some observations to make regarding the tax reform proposed by the government. He added that the country cannot be left without a general budget for 3 years and that the evaluation of the budget, which was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, should be expedited so that it can be approved.

[Begin recording] I am not saying that we agree with the budget submitted to Congress. We do have observations to make -- serious observations. [end recording]

Banzer pointed out that the tax reforms should be changed.

[Begin recording] We are very much concerned over the burden on the resources of Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB]. Although we believe that the demands made on YPFB at a time of crisis can be justified, it should also be temporary and in accordance with the duration of the crisis. In other words, it cannot be permanent, because we could destroy a company that is already becoming the backbone of the state income. We do not want YPFB to become an obsolete enterprise in a short time. Regarding tax reforms, the problems are of a different nature. For example, we disagree with constitutional violations. We have to avoid them. We have made proposals to avoid violations. [end recording]

In conclusion, Banzer said that his party supports the teachers' claims and that an additional budget for education should be approved even if other sectors have to be sacrificed.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] we support the teachers because we believe their salaries are not high enough. We support them because we believe that education is one of the main functions of the state and because our children cannot live without schools. This is why we have proposed that the budget on education be increased, even by sacrificing other sectors so that teachers can get an acceptable salary increase, bearing in mind that we must all make efforts to overcome the crisis. [end recording]

These were the statements made by ADN leader Hugo Banzer Suarez, who supports the cogovernment although it believes that it is still not the right time to implement it.

DEL VALLE 'REGRETS' SHULTZ' DICTATORSHIP REMARK

PY010159 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle regrets the statements by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who mentioned Chile as one of the four dictatorships left in the continent. Journalist Jose Francisco Contreras will give us more information on the foreign minister's statements.

[Begin recording] [Contreras] And now referring to the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Italy during a papal audience: According to observers this is the first time Shultz has referred to Chile as a dictatorship, one of the four dictatorships left in Latin America, together with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, that refuses to enter the redemocratization currently sweeping over Latin America. The foreign minister regretted these statements.

[Del Valle] We maintain a normal relationship with the United States and are aware that these types of comments are made by various government officials usually prompted by the internal U.S. situation. This has already been the case of other countries and now the United States has done the same. We simply regret it and consider that it is a criticism which a government should not make regarding another country with which it maintains diplomatic relations. We could also start criticizing our friendly countries very harshly but do not want to do so. [end recording]

DEL VALLE SAYS RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL 'EXCELLENT'

PY312319 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has termed Chilean relations with Brazil as excellent. The minister made these statements in view of press reports stating that Brazilian-Chilean relations would be cooled down.

[Begin Del Valle recording] That is a biased press report. After it was disseminated the president of Brazil sent his personal representative, the head of protocol, to tell Ambassador Schmidt exactly the opposite. Brazil welcomed Ambassador Schmidt's arrival, so therefore it has already voiced its agreement with his appointment. This incident was caused by a regrettable communique issued by a non-authorized member of the Presidency. The Brazilian foreign minister has reiterated his country's desire that the relations with Chile continue at their current excellent level. [end recording]

The foreign minister also reiterated that relations with the United States are normal. He made this statement in view of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' comments on the democratization process in Chile.

BRITISH MP SAYS CRITICISM OF CHILE 'UNJUST'

PY312310 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] A British MP has stated that foreign criticism of Chile is unjust. British Conservative MP Tristan Garel Jones made this statement after holding a meeting with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle.

Garel Jones stated that Chile shares with Great Britain the same cultural and intellectual values, emphasizing that criticism of Chile is exaggerated while noting that no one is criticizing the Soviet Union so strongly. The British MP arrived yesterday and will stay in the country until next Saturday to hold several meetings with governmental officials.

FPMR CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLACKOUT

PY010223 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (AFP) -- A blackout hit Chile tonight affecting the metropolitan region of Santiago, along a line extending 1,000 km. The blackout came at the end of a day of student protests that resulted in 6 wounded, approximately 30 detained persons and a large amount of damage.

The Carabineros militarized police has reported that the cut in the electricity supply to Coquimbo, Santiago, Vina del Mar and Concepcion was due to breakdowns in the plants that supply electricity to the entire central region. The clandestine leftist Manuel Rodriquez Patriotic Front (FPMR) claimed responsibility for the attacks through anonymous telephone calls to foreign news agencies and the local media.

The blackout occurred at 0023 GMT at a time when Santiago's downtown area was the scene of violent confrontations between the militarized police and hundreds of demonstrators who demanded the clearing up of the kidnapping and murder of three members of the opposition that occurred 1 year ago Sunday. After the blackout, Carabineros helicopters with powerful searchlights patrolled certain sectors to prevent disorder, while some explosions could be heard and the beginnings of fires were being announced.

The commemoration of the first anniversary of the killing of communist professionals Santiago Nattino, Jose Manuel Parada, and Manuel Guerrero at the hands of an armed commando who slit their throats, has provoked violent clashes between hundreds of demonstrators and heavily armed police forces. A specially-appointed civilian judge implicated Carabinero officials and agents in the case which afterward led to the resignation of Carabinero Director General Cesar Mendoza, who had been a member of the government junta for 11 years. Nevertheless, higher courts overturned the ruling handed down by Judge Jose Canovas and the chief suspects were set free.

Hundreds of youths, who held quick meetings challenging police actions in downtown Santiago and other districts, demanded justice and liberty. Bonfires appeared in some areas in downtown Santiago when several groups burned cardboard, wood, and papers, disrupting traffic. Four buses were burned.

In one of the incidents, Carabinero Hernan Martinez was stabbed in his back while the Carabinero agents were restraining groups of demonstrators on the Ahumada Avenue. Two other Carabineros were seriously injured. Leopoldo Correa, a correspondent for the U.S. television network CBS, was injured by a tear gas canister that hit him in the face and a student was injured when he was retrained by the Carabinero agents. Some incidents were still occurring around 0200 GMT in suburban districts where groups opposing the regime of General Augusto Pinochet were setting up barricades and shouting slogans against the regime.

BOMB ATTACKS BLACK OUT LOTA, CORONEL 28 MARCH

PY290030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- Two bomb attacks caused blackouts in the cities of Lota and Coronel, where Chile's largest coal mines are located. Lota and Coronel are neighboring cities located 530 km south of Santiago. The power outage occurred at 2300 on 27 March (0300 GMT 28 March), when the third shift of miners was getting ready to enter the mines to work. The third shift of workers, which could not start work because of the blackout, returned to work today. Carabineros have reported that unidentified individuals detonated explosives at two high-tension towers linked to this important region and to the city of Arauco, 570 km south of Santiago.

2 BANKS, MORMON CHURCH BOMBED IN SANTIAGO

PY281968 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1617 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- A Mormon church and two bank offices (one of them belonging to the Banco Exterior de Espana) were attacked with bombs last night and early this morning in Santiago. One bomb went off at the door of the Pedro de Valdivia branch of the Banco Exterior de Espana and another bomb exploded outside the National Bank office located on Vitacura Avenue, in the fashionable eastern sector of Santiago. The bombs caused only slight damage. A third bomb exploded in a church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), causing a fire, which was put out by firemen but caused moderate damage, according to an official report.

DISAGREEMENTS REAPPEAR IN NATIONAL ACCORD

PY292126 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p C3

[Excerpts] Disagreements which appeared within the National Accord toward the end of last year reappeared again yesterday during the meeting held by the signatories and called by the Accord's coordinator Sergio Molina. Some of the leaders participating in the meeting, the first one this year, said that a majority favored reviving the Accord and promoting a peaceful social mobilization.

It was said that the basic disagreement was expressed by Andres Allamand, leader of the National Unity, who confirmed after the meeting that his statement of 3 January is still valid. In that statement he said that the National Accord is not a political pact or a conglomerate of parties and that the National Unity will not participate in joint actions with the opposition sectors that signed the Accord. Allamand said that the doubts he had in January, when he stated that "the Accord is not an operational resort," were fully confirmed during yesterday's meeting.

Allamand said that most opposition parties insist on their thesis of social mobilization with a clearly "insurrectional" objective, which the National Unity has repeatedly rejected. He warned that the social mobilization is being prepared and will be carried out with the active participation of the Communist Party, which undoubtedly does not agree with one of the basic principles of the Accord, which is its rejection of the use of violence.

In the second place he said that in the opinion of the National Unity, the Accord is basically a document seeking an understanding with the government and the Armed Forces. Allamand added that the intention to promote civil disobedience in 1986, with the aim of ending the constitutional mandate of the Armed Forces before it expires, therefore contradicts the expressed goal of seeking an understanding.

Allamand concluded that "it is not right to give the public, the Catholic Church which promoted the document, and the signers themselves a false picture of the present situation of the Accord, or of the substantial and decisive disagreements prevailing within the Accord. It is still worse to make people believe that the document authorizes those who have signed it to carry out actions which distort its purposes, because this leads to a distortion of its original meaning."

In turn, National Accord coordinator Sergio Molina admitted that there are disagreements among those who signed the document, but he stressed that there is no split. He termed yesterday's meeting "a good meeting because it was very frank and all the participants gave their opinion on the present situation." He then reiterated that the document seeks procedures for a transition to democracy. He added: "Some people have committed themselves to social mobilization and believe that it is the most adequate method. There are others who will not participate, and they have a right to abstain. The 11 political groups cannot possibly agree on everything. We must become used to some dissent."

He asserted that those of the signatories who are for mobilization intend to promote it peacefully. The coordinator said: "The problem is this: Since there has been no possibility of a dialogue with the government, many of the signatories believe that an expression by the public is necessary. There is disagreement, but that does not mean that the Accord is broken," he added, referring to the position of the National Unity.

He admitted that there is disagreement over how to implement the Accord and showed that one of the divergent positions was the one held by the National Unity, which rejects social mobilization and advocates negotiation. Molina added: "None of the signatories of the Accord rejects negotiation. What happens is this: After 4 months of vain attempts by the coordinators to talk with the government, the rest of the signatories believe that it is perfectly natural for the citizens to express their discontent with the present situation."

He stated that since the Accord was created, signers have avoided setting a date for the return to democracy. He added that some of the signatories believe that "the sooner we return to democracy, the better," while others -- including the National Unity -- believe that the current period ends in 1989 and that democracy should come after that.

The meeting was attended by the leaders Pedro Correa (National Party); Javier Diaz (Republican Right); Enrique Silva Cimma and Luis Fernando Luengo (Radical Party); Carlos Briones and Hernan Vodanovic (Socialist Party); Patricio Aylwin and Eugenio Ortega (Christian Democrats); Rene Abeliuk, Mario Sharpe, and Arturo Venegas (Social Democrats); Luis Maira (Christian Left); Gaston Ureta (Liberal Party); Sergio Navarrete (Socialist Party, Mandujano faction); Andres Allamand (National Unity); and Ramon Silva Ulloa (Popular Socialist Union).

ARENAS, CANO COMMENT ON PATRIOTIC UNION PLANS

PA312224 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Report by Ricardo Canon -- recorded]

[Text] [Canon] After an arduous 9-hour trip, 3 hours by car and 6 hours by mule, we arrived in an isolated locality to the east of Cundinamarca Department to meet with Jacobo Arenas and Alfonso Cano, members of the FARC High Command. Jacobo Arenas, what is the next step following the results obtained by the Patriotic Union in the 9 March electoral process?

[Arenas] What follows is the work to be carried out by the Patriotic Union especially its representatives in municipal councils, departmental assemblies, and the Chamber and Senate of the Republic to present the Patriotic Union platform in these national deliberations. We called it platform to be conservative, but it is really a very broad program that addresses the most basic and important problems of Colombian society.

[Canon] Is this the appropriate moment to carry out the programs that you have established?

[Arenas] Any struggle to create a political space in Colombia faces enormous difficulties. However, what is important is that people understand our views; that they mobilize and struggle to carry them out.

[Canon] Alfonso Cano: There is a situation that is very compromising for the FARC: It is said that your organization promotes peasant movements currently taking place in various regions in the country. What do you have to say about this?

[Cano] It is absolutely not compromising for us. FARC is forced to be wherever the Colombian people are struggling or striving to achieve peace, obtain food, preserve life, and live in better conditions. Lately, the Colombian Army has been carrying out aggressive actions in peasant areas that do not agree with the bureaucratic Liberal and Conservative Parties, they have been militarily attacked. These peasants have not found any other way to defend their interests and lives than to struggle, protest, organize and mobilize themselves. This demanded the presence of the FARC, we support them.

[Canon] Jacobo Arenas: The temperature now stands at 3 degrees below zero. Do you think that your candidacy for the Patriotic Union has frozen?

[Arenas] I do not think so. I do not think so; I will contribute all I can to the movement to give more impetus to the current Patriotic Union candidate, Dr Jaime Pardo. I cannot be present in the campaign, because mechanisms of State Intelligence, and especially of the Army, are plotting to eliminate me in the same way they are eliminating many other people here in Colombia.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN TO ECOPETROL -- The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] yesterday confirmed that it had received an international loan for $108 million granted by a pool of Japanese banks. With these funds, Ecopetrol will finance new programs for the construction of pipelines as a complement to the successful oil exploration and exploitation programs. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 1 PA]

CABINET MINISTERS RESIGN TO ALLOW RESHUFFLE

PY010151 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The Presidency of the Republic this afternoon released the following communique:

After a meeting held at the Interior Ministry, the ministers of state tendered their resignations to the President of the Republic to give him more freedom for a possible reshuffling of his ministerial cabinet. This cabinet change could come about as a result of the new political stage that will begin at the end of the talks with political parties seeking an agreement. President Sanguinetti thanked the ministers and added that he will make a decision this week. Along with the communique, the Presidency also released the note signed by all the ministers. It reads:

At the end of the sessions seeking a national political understanding, the ministers who sign this note, and who have had the honor and satisfaction of cooperating with your administration from the very beginning of this government, want to present to you the resignations from our ministerial posts, in order to give you greater freedom to solve the political problem. The note adds: On presenting our resignations we are pleased to reaffirm our solidarity with your government's actions during this first year and express our gratitude for your attention to the problems of our respective ministries and for the cordial treatment given to us. The note concludes: We extend our cordial greetings to you, Mister President. The note is signed by all ministers.

We reiterate that President Sanguinetti, having the resignations in his hands, will proceed to reshuffle his ministerial cabinet. It is also appropriate to recall that the collective resignations of ministers was presented to facilitate the president's work.

President Sanguinetti will address the nation to report on the scope of the agreement reached with the opposition parties. He will probably also refer to the reorganization of the ministerial cabinet.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT RECEIVES AMBASSADORS -- During a ceremony at Government House yesterday President Julio Maria Sanguinetti received the credentials of new Japanese Ambassador Ryoko Akanatsu, Egyptian Ambassador Faruq Muhammad Barakah, and Netherlands Ambassador Eldred Gabriel Maduro. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 5 PY]

HEPATITIS OUTBREAK -- Public Health Minister Dr Raul Ugarte has revealed to Radio Carve that 39 cases of hepatitis have been reported in San Jacinto, Canelones Department. [Excerpt] [Montevideo Radio Carve 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86 PY]

NEW AMBASSADORS NAMED -- On March 18 Uruguayan Ambassador to Spain Luis Hierro Gambardella was appointed as concurrent ambassador to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Roberto Vivo was appointed as concurrent ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 5 PY]

PDP'S CHANG MARIN ON U.S. ENVOY'S APPOINTMENT

PA311628 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 2 A

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] In the opinion of the People's Party [PdP], President Eric Arturo Delvalle's acceptance of new U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, despite his recent interference in Panama's internal affairs, demonstrates weakness in response to U.S. pressures.

The Panamanian communist party's position was expressed during an interview granted to LA PRENSA on the arrival in Panama of the new ambassador, who will succeed outgoing Everett Briggs; Davis' acceptance was repudiated due to statements he made a few weeks ago regarding Panamanian policies.

Professor Carlos Francisco Chang Marin, a member of the party and director of the newspaper UNIDAD, pointed out that the Panamanian Government's weakness was demonstrated with the approval of three reform laws -- labor, agricultural, and industrial -- a line that the communists have described as an increasingly deep concession to the United States which, in the party's opinion, poses a dangerous risk of reversing the progress made during the past few years, in terms of national sovereignty.

Chang Marin said that although the State Department denied that Davis made the statements that LA PRENSA and other newspapers published, we know that Davis did make them because his actions are the result of the U.S. policy that its ambassadors must carry out as true proconsuls in Latin America.

"Davis' presence is the presence of Reagan's neoglobalist policy," the veteran communist said, basing his statements on the fact that the United States believes in its role of international gendarme, and that throughout the world it must carry out offensive actions. Davis is well known to Chang Marin and the PdP because when he was on good terms with Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner; he served as a minister without portfolio, according to the dictator himself. "I do not know if Davis will have a portfolio here or not," Chang Marin commented, adding that he foresees that the Panamanian people will reject Davis because he received the president's approval but not the people's.

The new U.S. ambassador, according to Chang Marin, knowing that the people did not like his interference, will now try to "win Panama's love" with politics and statements that carry within them a certain hypocrisy. Nevertheless, he said that even more dangerous are Davis' people (alluding to U.S. allies), influential people in the Central American region to which the Panamanians belong.

Analyzing the scope of his presence on the isthmus, he warned that Davis' being in Panama is another step in the preparation of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. From another angle, and weighing the crisis the country is experiencing, Chang Marin said that Davis is a specialist in economic destabilization, and as far as he knew he will have room to carry out his plans in Panama.

In regard to his party's position now that Davis has arrived in Panama, Chang Marin said that Davis' presence cannot be prevented due to orders from the current government. Nevertheless, the Panamanian communists will be alert to his work, which is supposed to be a continuation of Briggs' work.

He recalled that it was the PdP that forced the outgoing ambassador to increase U.S. scholarships to Panamanian youths since the socialist countries were giving large numbers. In this regard, he said, it is more productive to have a war of international scholarships between the two sides than a conflict as in Nicaragua. We would never be opposed to this, he said.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON CONTADORA, U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

PA010350 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The United States aid [words indistinct] the rebel groups struggling against the regime in Nicaragua cannot be discussed at the next Contadora Group meeting, it was stated by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez.

How can the Nicaragua-United States situation be discussed by Contadora when the United States is not present? Foreign Minister Gutierrez asked. He confirmed that it has been the norm in the Contadora process to discuss matters only if the interested parties are present. That is why the situation could not possibly be discussed at the next Contadora Group meeting, Foreign Minister Gutierrez reasserted.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez believes that the agenda for the upcoming Contadora Group meeting basically includes the peace document, the implementation of the Caraballeda declaration, and discussion of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border problem.

Nevertheless, Gutierrez asserted that he still does not know for certain what topics are included on the agenda for the meeting, which will take place on Contadora Island later this week. Gutierrez thinks that the U.S. Senate's approval of $100 million for the contras does not hinder the Contadora process because the United States wants the Sandinist regime to hold a dialogue with the opposition and implement the provisions of the Caraballeda declaration; if this is fulfilled, the United States' demand would be met.

SANDINIST SHELLS EXPLODE IN BORDER AREA 16 MARCH

PA311910 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1828 GMT 31 Mar 86

[By Wilfredo Chacon S.]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Civil Guard director Oscar Vidal reported today that several shells from an .82 caliber mortar, used by the Sandinists fighting the guerrillas in Nicaragua, exploded in Costa Rican territory.

The incident took place on 16 March at the border post known as Boca del Sarapiqui, which takes its name from one of the Costa Rican rivers that flow to the San Juan River on the border.

Vidal accompanied his report to the Foreign Ministry with "considerable evidence" collected in the area where the incident took place.

After 2 weeks of investigations and inspections, the police concluded that on Sunday, 16 March, there were clashes between Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) forces under Commander Eden Pastora and Sandinist militiamen, very close to the border between the two countries.

Meanwhile, approximately 40 km west of the bombarded area there was another incident, when an unidentified airplane "coming from Nicaragua" entered Costa Rica airspace.

The lead-colored airplane flew over several border areas for more than half an hour, and the director of the police force reported that fire was not opened on it until it lowered its altitude because the policemen's weapons "are short-ranged and ineffective against warplanes."

Shots were fired at the invading plane from the Boca de San Carlos border post, another tributary of the San Juan River.

These were the only incidents that interrupted the normal situation on the border with Nicaragua during Holy Week, in a region authorities report as "free of contras," thanks to the control and permanent vigilance the police maintain "in fulfillment of the government's proclaimed neutrality."

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES REAGAN REGIONAL POLICY

PA301228 San Jose LIBERIAD in Spanish 21-27 Mar 86 p 2

["Our Position" column: "It Is Possible To Save Central America"]

[Text] One does not have to be too sharp to realize that the noise President Reagan is making internationally to have the U.S. Congress approve the delivery of $100 million, which he claims he needs to topple the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua, has all the characteristics of a theater play. However, behind the curtains of this play there is the making of a big tragedy for Central America that could affect the entire Latin American continent. Who could imagine that President Reagan and the big monopolies backing him really have to wage a parliamentary battle to secure $100 million? How difficult can it be for a government that has at its disposal $250 billion every year for military expenditures to take $100 million from any of the garbage dumps of the arms factories he controls?

It is probable that Mr Reagan is making all that noise for the following reasons: to get the U.S. people used to the idea that their government is set on intervening in Nicaragua, to convince the people of the world that Nicaragua has become a threat to the United States because it has fallen into the hands of the Soviet Union and Cuba, and to give the world the impression that his government does not want to invade Nicaragua directly and prefers to turn several thousand anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionaries into his soldiers.

Let us see what the truth is.

Mr Reagan has said clearly that Cuba has become a military power that is threatening U.S. hegemony over the entire continent and over the two big oceans. But Reagan himself has said that Cuba is not alone, because it has a mutual defense pact with the Soviet Union. On the basis of this dangerous opinion, Reagan and his military and political advisers have decided to take over Central America to turn it into a powerful military base confronting Cuba. However, Reagan has stumbled on an obstacle in his effort to accomplish his objective: Nicaragua. That small country, according to what Reagan charges in his propaganda full of lies, has been turned by the Soviet Union and Cuba in a military power that is several times more powerful than Mexico.

What do do? If Reagan invades Nicaragua with his Army, he would have to face Cuba, the Central American people, and several Latin American countries that have already made their position known. The Caribbean area and part of Latin America would be set on fire. This fire, of course, could easily become a world war. Summarizing: Setting the Caribbean on fire would represent a giant conflict that could never end in victory for the United States. Mr Reagan's advisers know this very well, and this is the reason for the hesitation and the howling of the U.S. President in the face of the majority of the U.S. representatives' refusal to give their blessing to a suicidal policy that could lead to a nuclear war.

Senator Jim Sasser, during a speech to oppose Mr Reagan's thesis, has said, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the following: "As the father of a 17 year-old boy I tell you, Mr President, let us not sink in that swamp. We have done so in the past. The same newspaper notes: "Many Democratic leaders are affirming that the U.S. people fear that an increase of the violence in Central America could lead to the sending of young North Americans to the battlefront."

On Wednesday of this week, LA NACION published a CIA message from Washington making known Reagan's plan. The anti-Sandinist forces -- probably fattened by mercenaries -- at training camps in Honduras under the direction of Green Beret commanders, will be turned into a modern army at the service of the United States. There is also talk of a large amount of arms to be supplied to these forces. Everything is being said clearly, with absolute cynicism. The conclusion is clear: Mr Reagan's tactic consists in making the world believe that it is not the U.S. Army that is invading Nicaragua, but an Army of Nicaraguans "struggling for sovereignty in their fatherland."

What is President Reagan proposing as a way out of this dangerous conflict? An absurdity, that the Sandinist government talk with the traitors and make concessions under the threat of a U.S. invasion. Is it not logical that the talks be held with Mr Reagan who is the one who is invading, making use of phony pretexts? The truth is that Reagan does not want to negotiate. What he needs to do is to occupy Central America, beginning with Nicaragua. We Costa Ricans must not let ourselves be fooled because together with Nicaragua we are on the brink of the worst tragedy in our history.

On 30 June 1982 Fidel Castro had a meeting with former President Jose Figueres in Havana. Comrade Manuel Mora was present at that meeting. We have in front of us a memorandum summarizing the event. The following is a text of the second clause of the memorandum:

"Regarding revolutionary processes in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and in answer to a specific question from former President Figueres, Fidel said that he is absolutely convinced that both Nicaragua and El Salvador want a negotiated arrangement with the United States, but the United States has created and continues to create obstacles for such an arrangement. Nicaragua is not armed because of whims, or because it plans to attack neighboring countries as it has been charged, while it is known that this is not true. Nicaragua has been forced to arm itself because there are serious invasion and intervention threats. The CIA has not hidden the fact that it is training former Somozist guards in Honduras and in the United States. The Armies of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are, without doubt, a potential threat to Nicaragua. It is evident that Nicaragua would benefit from lowering its military expenditures to be able to better develop its economy. The Nicaraguan Government leaders have publicly and specifically told the U.S. Government that if it guarantees, with the adoption of specific measures, that the intervention and invasion plans are no longer in effect, Nicaragua could think about investing in the production sector what it now has to invest in arms and defensive measures."

We ask: Is it possible to save Central America and the Caribbean from a war? Yes, it is possible. Saving Central America from war means closing one of the doors through which a third world war is about to hit mankind. But salvation must be the result of realistic negotiations carried out between the Caribbean region and the United States. In that negotiation, the people of the Caribbean, the people of Central America, must secure from the United States a serious and duly guaranteed commitment that their sovereignty will be absolutely respected and that it will recognize that the people of the area are the owners of whatever wealth nature put in their territory.

In exchange for this, the Caribbean people will give the United States whatever guara guarantees it may need to defend its security and sovereignty. If this negotiation takes place through the United Nations, then the big powers -- including the Soviet Union -- could participate and serve as guarantors. Some 3 years ago a group of Reagan's advisers considered this proposal as a good basis for discussion. Fidel Castro also found it good. Consequently, the road is open. Will Reagan prefer to destroy the people of this area, thus pushing his own country into a tragedy, rather than to try to befriend our people through negotiations in line with the historic situation we are living through?

BRIEFS

COLON DEVALUATION -- The colon devaluation decreed by the Central Bank yesterday will be the last one by the Monge Alvarez administration. As this station had announced last week, yesterday's devaluation amounted to 25 centimos. Now our currency is being sold at 54.70 colones per $1 for purchases and 54.95 colones per $1 for sales. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Mar 86 PA]

HONDURAS

SANDINIST SOLDIERS MAY REMAIN IN TERRITORY

PA311709 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] As we have reported, the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area has been the scene of serious incidents during the last few days, during which Sandinists have either been killed or captured by the Honduran forces. Our station sent reporter Miriam Mercado to a place barely 8 km from Nicaraguan territory to report on developments at the border.

Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, commander of Task Force No 17, dispatched to Capire, in the border area, has reported that calm has returned to the frontier area. The military officer does not rule out the possibility that small Sandinist groups are still in this region. This is Mercado's first news report from the site of events.

[Begin recording] [Mercado] At this moment there is calm in the eastern area of El Paraiso and more specifically in Capire. This is confirmed by Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces' Task Force No 17.

[Carvajal] What I can say is that the situation is virtually under control. We have no major problems. Our mission is to reinforce the sector with Task Force No 17, as you well said. We state that everything is under control because we are detecting small EPS patrols. Most certainly, these must be soldiers who have gotten lost or are disorganized. We suppose that, in their disarray, most of them have left for their country.

[Mercado] Have the Sandinist troops suffered any casualties so far?

[Carvajal] Yes, definitely. I cannot say how many, but they have indeed suffered some casualties. You will have an opportunity to see some of them. We cannot give any figures because there are still some people in the thick areas of the Entre Rios mountain range, which is where the clashes have taken place. These clashes have been among patrols and have not involved any major battles, but there have been confrontations in which casualties have resulted.

[Mercado] How far is this troubled area of Capire from the border with Nicaragua, Colonel?

[Carvajal] (?Twelve) km away.

[Mercado] Thus far, what role has been played by the U.S. troops here? One can hear the fighting at this moment. I can hear mortars.

[Carvajal] These are not exactly mortars but only volleys fired by people who are in the area....

[Mercado, interrupting] What role has been played by the U.S. troops here?

[Carvajal] They are supporting us with transportation. The area has been reinforced by Task Force No 17 with support from the American forces.

[Mercado] Colonel, the peasant population claims that they are starving in this area of El Paraiso. What is the Armed Forces planning to do in this regard?

[Carvajal] We are already taking pertinent steps. We have scheduled a civic action program for tomorrow. We will bring medicine and doctors and will try to bring them food, too, because they are really facing a crisis.

[Mercado] In this way, Lt Col Molina, commander of Task Force No 17 located in the area of Capire, El Paraiso, confirms that the Armed Forces have begun taking food and medicine to peasants in the region. He has also confirmed that there is complete calm for the time being in that troubled area on the border with Nicaragua.
[end recording]

Bodies Shown to Reporters

PA311832 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Miriam Mercado report]

[Text] This isareport from Capire, El Paraiso, for Radio America.

The bodies of five EPS soldiers were shown by the Honduran Armed Forces on Thursday here in Capire, only 8 km from the border with Nicaragua. Approximately 80 reporters were brought to this area in eastern Honduras aboard 2 Chinook helicopters. The flight from Tegucigalpa to Capire lasted 1 hour.

The first things that could be seen as the two U.S. helicopters prepared to land were trenches, cannon trained on Nicaragua, and Honduran troops spread around the hills surrounding Capire. A few meters away from the place where they got off the helicopters, the reporters were able to see the bodies of five Sandinist soldiers, whose ages apparently ranged between 17 and 24 years, strewn among tree logs. A Honduran soldier said that the shots that were fired at them apparently came from AK-47 rifles, which the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and the Sandinists themselves carry. They [not further identified] were taken to Capire by helicopter from the Entre Rios mountain range, which is even closer to the Nicaraguan border, the Honduran soldier explained.

Moreover, Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces' Task Force No 17, has approximately 900 Honduran soldiers under his command.

These soldiers were brought 4 days ago to watch over this part of the border with Nicaragua. According to Carvajal, the situation is under control, but he does not rule out the possibility that there are more Sandinist prisoners. [sentence as heard]

His estimate coincides with the armament that was seized from the EPS, which was shown to reporters here in Capire on Thursday. Shown to the press were 30 Soviet-made AK rifles which, logically, were carried by Nicaraguan soldiers, who were not shown to the local and international press. Carvajal added that he has issued instructions to bury in the mountain any other bodies found there and to respect the lives of Sandinist soldiers who surrender.

We reporters were also witness to the presence here in Capire of General John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Panama. He arrived here in Capire on Thursday to check on the effectiveness of the training given by the North Americans to the Honduran military forces that are in this region.

Army Controls Border

PA311848 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1804 GMT 31 Mar 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Army reported today that it has absolute control of the eastern part of the country bordering with Nicaragua, after dislodging Sandinist contingents that had entered the country since 17 March.

Honduran Armed Forces spokesmen said that their troops have not suffered any casualties, but they did not specify the number of Sandinists killed or captured in clashes.

Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, chief of the Honduran Task Forces, said "approximately 1,200 Sandinists entered our territory. They withdrew, but some of them were left behind, and our main objective now is mopping up."

He explained to reporters that the Sandinists have not clashed [no han combatido] with "counterrevolutionary" forces in Honduran territory as has been insistently reported; he also denied reports that 900 Nicaraguan soldiers had been trapped by the rebels.

International press reports have put the number of EPS casualties at 350 to 700 dead, with hundreds of soldiers wounded. Nevertheless, anti-Sandinist spokesmen in Tegucigalpa, who have very actively publicized minor victories such as ambushes of patrols and vehicles in the rural areas of Nicaragua, have maintained total silence in response to reports that they have won an "enormous military victory."

Situation 'Normal'

PA310432 Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Military sources and area residents have assured AFP that no further clashes have been registered today in the border area with Nicaragua. On the contrary, everything seems to have returned to normal in the past few hours.

However, residents from the Capire area, some 220 km east of Tegucigalpa and 12 km from the border, have not yet returned to the area where, according to reports from Washington and from Tegucigalpa, a Sandinist incursion occurred last weekend.

Likewise, although the military sources have said that "the situation is virtually under control," those mobilized said that there are peasants missing in the area and that many of them have lost their property and livestock.

Moreover, an Army spokesman said yesterday that missing Sandinist patrols and forces have been found sporadically and that some of them have been able to flee in disarray to Nicaragua.

Carvajal on Sandinist Entry

PA311915 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] In San Francisco Capire, Colonel Danilo Carvajal said:

[Begin recording] [Carvajal] I am going to be very brief because to make a detailed account would take a long time here. You may recall that 19 March was the first day when you, perhaps, began to get the first reports. That was the day when -- how should I say it -- an Air Force helicopter was not downed, but hit. The helicopter had a mechanical malfunction. It took off from an area that is in the mountains, which are right here, but it fell here.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the name of it?

[Carvajal] It is the Entre Rios Mountain range. As you may see on the map, it is the Entre Rios mountain range. The helicopter was in the mountains. This was the... [changes thought] this was the indication that they [the Sandinists] were already inside [the country]. The rest of the information we obtained from messages that we intercepted from them. We have intercepted messages, and that is why we know the number of personnel who have entered the country.

As you may see, these arrows indicate the personnel who entered the country. By the information in the messages, we surmised the number of people, which is approximately 1,200, adding all that.

As you may see, we had a platoon of the 7th Battalion and a patrol of the 6th Battalion before. These numbers you see here refer to the units. You can see that we do not have a large quantity of personnel in the area. Fortunately, the area is very mountainous, and a small patrol can put a stop to a large number of their people. In addition, the jungle is so thick that communications become very difficult.

In the first place, we know that the counterrevolutionaries are giving them problems, and these areas that we are not controlling are areas where they [the contras] seek refuge. Well, it could be true that they [the Sandinists] were chasing them [the contras], but how many people could be involved in this pursuit? Let's suppose that 500, or how many could there be? But we know that more than 1,000 Sandinists entered the country because of the messages we intercepted, as I said before.

It is logical for you, but it is not militarily logical to have 1,000 plus men enter our country chasing [the contras] in mountains like that. Any smaller force could have done that. [end recording].

GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO INFORM PUBLIC CRITICIZED

PA312013 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] After Holy Week and as Hondurans resume normal activities, we cannot begin to work without focusing our attention on the incidents that occurred during the days that should have been of spiritual retreat for all Catholics who listen to the words of Christ's vicar who resides at the Vatican.

While the Christian world was involved in its faith, Honduras' southeastern border was appearing on the teletype machines of the news agencies with the most alarming predictions of war of the eighties.

Nothing much was said in our country and much less was known about what was occurring. The first report about the armed confrontation, telling us that the Sandinist Army had entered Honduras, came from Washington, as has occurred on other occasions.

The government's silence prompted disgust and confusion. It does not seem logical or wise that Hondurans must receive first foreign versions and then that of our authorities. The official silence can be interpreted in many ways and almost every time results in doubts and distrust. The worst thing that can happen to any government is for it to lose credibility whether because it does not report correctly, because it does so late, or because it does not give full reports.

Anyway, the border incident was not artificial. It was real and serious. Best proof of it was offered by Commander Ortega himself, by admitting the casualties sustained by his Army, although he was careful not to admit that they had entered Honduras. This is an understandable tactic because, had he done so, he would have lost the support of certain countries that still believe that Nicaragua is the victim instead of Central America's threat.

The incident in the southeastern sector of the Honduran border -- which was reported throughout the world and commented on by foreign and even Honduran reporters who analyze national news -- may have many versions, interpretations, and consequences. But most Hondurans agree on the need to organize the information better for Hondurans, to whom the government owes respect, as well as for the foreign press, whose correspondents get irritated with vague statements and delayed reports. The information must be produced professionally without waiting for news agencies to give us their versions from Washington, Paris, London, or Moscow.

On this aspect of the information battle, an aspect we must emphasize now, we must say that Managua has understood it perfectly well and uses it very skillfully. The Sandinist regime is constantly mobilizing its roving ambassadors who are making daily visits, holding press conferences, and lobbying for support in places where common ambassadors cannot act.

Today's Nicaragua also has a network to disseminate news, which takes no break. With its dispatches, Managua reaches the world. With its powerful transmitters, it invades the hertzian waves of all neighboring countries. Its team of reporters is very competent and aggressive, and it joins the work of the Foreign Ministry which constantly seeks specific objectives.

On Wednesday night, Hondurans residing in the United States kept calling us on the telephone asking about the Honduran situation because U.S. television news was alarming and Nicaragua was using this opportunity to tear us to pieces.

Nora Astorga used the CBS channel for 30 minutes and dared to accuse the Honduran president of being a liar. No Honduran diplomat responded to Astorga, perhaps because he did not have any first-hand information.

The abuse of the Sandinist Army, which violated Honduran territory, instead of serving to show the arrogance and warlike attitude of the neighboring regime, is being used against Honduras and, unfortunately, certain Hondurans, incorrectly using freedom of thought, are making common cause with the Honduran enemy.

This situation would probably not have happened, or would have been less damaging, if the government had opportunely informed the people, giving all the news material which the national and international public have a right to know.

But we have been presented as invalids and dependents on someone else's news, which has its own interests and deficiencies when it stems from people, organizations, or governments that could not care less about Honduras' destiny.

The military and the central government must organize the information more effectively. This is not a criticism of the people involved with official reporting, but the operative mechanism that needs the guidance and approval of the decision-making authorities, which is what is known everywhere as executive capacity.

GOVERNMENT REFUTES MARCOS' ASYLUM REQUEST REPORTS

PA312256 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2221 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Press communique issued by the Foreign Secretariat Directorate of Information and Press in Tegucigalpa on 31 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the unfounded speculations circulating in the international media regarding an alleged request for asylum in Honduran by Ferdinand Marcos, former president of the Philippines, the government of the Republic, through the Foreign Affairs Secretariat, states that it has not received any request for, nor has it offered, asylum to the former president of the Philippines.

Therefore, the Honduran Government considers -- and has so told the Government of the Philippines through the proper diplomatic channels -- that reports concerning [Honduran] asylum for former President Marcos are completely false.

Tegucigalpa, 31 March

Directorate of Information and Press of the Foreign Secretariat.

DRUG TRAFFICKER FACES POSSIBLE EXTRADITION

PA311710 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Alleged Honduran drug trafficker Ramon Mata Ballesteros, who escaped from Bogota's Model Jail 10 days ago, turned himself over to Honduran justice this morning.

Mata has a trial pending in Honduras for the murder of Mario and Mary Ferrari, husband and wife, who were murdered in Honduras in 1977.

The United States also wants Mata for his involvement in the murder of U.S. antinarcotics agent Camarena, which took place in Mexico in 1985.

Mata was captured in Colombia as a result of this charge approximately 3 months ago; Tegucigalpa and Washington both demanded his extradiction. Although Colombian justice decided to turn Mata over to Honduras, authorities in Tegucigalpa showed interest in having him extradited to the United States first.

Mata's attorney, Carlos Florenzana, protested the Honduran decision and argued that, according to the local Constitution and law, the accused should be tried in Honduras. Florenzana said this morning before Judge Rafael Medina of Tegucigalpa: "As a Honduran, Mata is entitled to be here and tried" in this country. Florenzana refused to explain how Mata entered Honduras.

Claims Innocence

PA010005 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2005 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Interview with Ramon Mata Ballesteros, alleged Honduran drug trafficker, by an unidentified Radio America reporter on 31 March at the 1st Criminal Court in Tegucigalpa -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Tell me Mata, what is your responsibility in Camarena's death?

[Mata] None.

[Question] What about the accusations against you from the United States?

[Mata] The same, none. I am innocent.

[Question] And in the case of the Ferraris?

[Mata] I am also innocent.

[Announcer] These were statements by Ramon Mata at the moment he was being taken to prison in the La Mora sector. Mata also said that when he left Colombia he went to Belize. He did not mention at what point he came into Honduras; he said only that he was in Belize. When asked if it were true he paid $1 million to the prison's governor in Colombia to get him out, Mata absolutely denied this.

[Question] How long have you been out of the country?

[Mata] More than 7 years.

[Question] We would like you to tell our listeners about your escape from Colombia?

[Mata] I was unsure of my rights in Colombia, and I did not have a lawyer. This forced me to do what I did to be able to return to my country.

[Question] Why did you decide to come to Honduras, and when did you decide this?

[Mata] I arrived at 0100 this morning.

[Question] How? By air or by land?

[Mata] By land.

[Question] Do you have a police record here for breaking the law?

[Mata] No.

[Question] What is your opinion of the Honduran authorities?

[Mata] I pray to God that they give me justice, because I am also innocent in the Ferrari case.

[Question] Why did you come to Honduras?

[Mata] Because it is my country.

[Question] Do you think you will be extradited?

[Mata] I doubt it.

[Question] Why?

[Mata] Because the Honduran Constitution does not permit this, and because I am innocent of the things of which I am accused.

May Remain for Trial

PA010139 Paris AFP in Spanish 0050 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Ramon Mata Ballesteros, the Honduran drug trafficker who is being demanded by U.S. and Colombian courts, might not be extradited, it was revealed today by Honduran Attorney General Ruben Zepeda.

Forty-one-year-old Mata Ballesteros, who escaped from one of the "most secure" prisons in Bogota 2 weeks ago, today surprisingly turned himself in to Honduran authorities, announcing that he wants to be tried in his country of origin.

Mata Ballesteros' request was supported, in principle, by Attorney General Ruben Zepeda, who said that -- regardless of other countries' demands -- the drug trafficker "must be tried by Honduran courts."

Zepeda said it was "a mistake" that the former government of Roberto Suazo Cordova decided not to try Mata in a Honduran court, giving priority to the U.S. courts' demands.

Mata is accused of killing an Argentine couple in Honduras in 1977, while the United States links him with the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camerena which occurred last year in Mexico.

While stressing that Mata should have been extradited to Honduras last year when he was captured in Cartagena, Colombia, Zepeda said "that the executive branch only enforces the law and has no other purviews, except those granted by the law."

In any case, Zepeda announced that the Honduran Attorney general's office will issue an official communique on this case within the next 48 hours at the request of the Foreign Secretariat, which will in turn report the ruling to the Supreme Court of Justice in Colombia.

Mata Ballesteros, whose unexplainable escape from the Model Jail in mid-March provoked a commotion within the country's penitentiary, is also accused of various murders in Colombia.

Nevertheless, Zepeda warned that the Colombian courts must now limit their actions to presenting and proving the charges they have against Mata so that the Honduran courts can issue a ruling, "because he is completely under our jurisdiction."

During a press conference with the Honduran press today, Mata Ballesteros declared himself "innocent" of all the charges against him here and abroad and stated that he escaped from the Colombian jails "because there is no security for me (there)."

The drug trafficker also said he surrendered to the Honduran authorities "because this is my homeland" and asserted that he entered the country at dawn on Monday from Guatemala. Nevertheless, other unofficial versions stated that Mata Ballesteros arrived in Honduras on 22 March.

Attorney General Zepeda also said the fact that Mata voluntarily turned himself in to Honduran authorities "will be an extenuating circumstance at the time of the trial."

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE - Narcotics agents from the Department of National Investigation seized cocaine and marijuana worth 2 million lempiras in a downtown hotel in Tegucigalpa. The merchandise belonged to a Costa Rican citizen who registered at the Santa Eduviges Hotel under the name of John Connowell on 28 May 1985, according to hotel clerk Berta Nunez. That same day he disappeared, the clerk said. His two bags remained in a corner of the room assigned to him until last week when Ms Nunez decided to move the bags to the hotel's storeroom. Neither she nor another hotel employee was able to lift them. In the presence of the hotel owner, Jose Rene Rivera, they tore them open and discovered cocaine and marijuana. The authorities were called in and they seized the drugs. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86 PA]

NICARAGUA

REAGAN CHARGES ON SANDINIST OFFENSIVE 'REJECTED'

PA281337 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1209 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has rejected U.S. President Ronald Reagan's charges about carrying out a military offensive in Honduran territory. According to Reagan, that alleged Nicaraguan military action against Honduran territory is a lesson for the U.S. congressmen who have refused to support his request for $100 million for the counterrevolutionary bands that he has created, encourages, and equips.

In rejecting Reagan's version, the Nicaraguan Government admits that the counter-revolutionaries have been pursued in the country's northern border region, driving them back to their place of origin, Honduras.

That is the only offensive of our Sandinist Army, a Presidency spokesman said, adding that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has been in telephone contact with the Honduran authorities in the last few days in regard to the false and dangerous accusations by the White House. Ortega invited his Honduran counterpart, Jose Azcona Hoyo, to create a joint vigilance commission on the common border to prevent any type of friction in view of the well-known presence of the former Somozist guardsmen on the other side of the border. In Tegucigalpa Lisandro Quezada, Presidency press secretary, said that he has information that what took place on the border with Nicaragua was not a Nicaraguan offensive but an incident during the Sandinist troops' pursuit of the counterrevolutionary bands and that it has been clarified. This statement is a new denial of the insistent denunciations and accusations by the U.S. President against the Nicaraguan Government within his constant campaign to make the Managua government appear to be an invader and thus justify his pressure on the Republican and Democratic senators and representatives who are undecided or who oppose an increase in the Reagan administration's armed intervention in Central America and more specifically in Nicaragua.

The revolutionary leaders of our country have said that if the announced direct intervention by the U.S. Marines takes place, all of Central America will be set on fire and will be turned into a new Vietnam for the North Americans.

Even the U.S. diplomats in Honduras are denying the statements of the White House and its occupant. While in Washington State Department official Charles Redman told the journalists of the transnational agencies that the Honduran Army operations to expel Sandinist military units that violated Honduran territory were under way, in Tegucigalpa a representative of the U.S. Embassy contradicted the statement. Theodore Wilkinson, political counselor in the Honduran capital, said that the border region between Honduras and Nicaragua is back to normal. Roberto Suazo, adviser of the Foreign Secretariat of the Jose Azcona Hoyo government, said that after slight problems, the situation in the region is getting back to normal with the presence of Honduran troops on the border. Therefore, there is no dangerous Sandinist offensive against Honduran territory as warmongering U.S. President Ronald Reagan claimed yesterday in New Orleans. His own diplomats are refuting him.

'MILITARY SOURCES' ADMIT BORDER INCURSION

PA301354 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0524 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Managua, 30 Mar (REUTER) -- Nicaraguan forces crossed the Honduran border this week in order to attack rebel bases and thwart an important guerrilla offensive, military sources said in Managua. The sources reported yesterday that large contingents of counterrevolutionaries established in Honduras were planning to carry out a coordinated attack against Nicaragua beginning on 17 March from three points along the border.

A military source explained that on Saturday [not further clarified] the Sandinist forces entered the border area in order to hinder the communication and supply lines of the contra guerrillas -- which receive aid from Washington in their plans to oust the Sandinist government -- through the destruction of their command center. The source, which made the statements on the condition that his identity would not be disclosed, said that when the Managua authorities decided to launch the offensive, over 1,500 rebels had already surreptitiously entered Nicaraguan territory. "The plan was to crush the core of the operation to prevent them (the rebels) from coordinating," the source said, while pointing out that the operation had been successful.

President Daniel Ortega said on Friday that the Sandinists launched a defensive incursion in "border areas."

Another military source said that the operation was carried out by an attack battalion that included approximately 600 men. The U.S. Government, which defined the offensive as an invasion, calculated that the Sandinist force was made up of approximately 1,500 men. The sources said that the troops left Honduran territory on Tuesday but added that two Sandinist soldiers were captured by the Honduran authorities.

WHEELOCK TO HEAD FSLN DELEGATION TO BCP CONGRESS

PA010330 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 1

[Communique entitled "Wheelock To Attend Communist Party Congress in Bulgaria," issued by the Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate in Managua on 30 March]

[Text] The Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate reports that Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, member of the FSLN National Directorate, and minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, heads the FSLN delegation that will attend the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Bulgaria [BCP] which will be held on 2-5 April of this year. The delegation will also include Sandinist Assembly members Marcos Valle Martinez and Alejandro Guevara Silva.

Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate

Managua, 30 March 1986

"1986: 25 Years Later, All Arms Against Aggression."

CONSTRUCTION MINISTER ON DAMAGE BY CONTRAS

PA310237 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] With their criminal actions in the northern region, the mercenary forces have caused losses totalling almost 7 billion cordovas in the construction sector. Construction Minister Mauricio Valenzuela reported that the contras have destroyed 180 pieces of equipment, 137 of which were heavy equipment and the remainder light and transportation equipment. He added that some facilities, bridges, and other installations have been destroyed or damaged.

In summarizing the losses, Valenzuela said that so far 70 workers, experts, and engineers have fallen in various contra ambushes. Commander Valenzuela also urged workers to redouble their efforts in order to meet established goals and to increase discipline and productivity.

CONTRA CHIEFTAINS WORRIED ABOUT AIDS

PA281533 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1241 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The counterrevolutionary chieftains are worried over the spread of AIDS. The concern over the effect of AIDS detected among the U.S. soldiers stationed in Honduras has reached the counterrevolutionary chieftains, the Mexico City newspaper EL DIA reported.

The newspaper published a letter sent by the traitor Eden Pastora of ARDE to Brooklyn Rivera of Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity] in which the former points out several recommendations on the dangers of AIDS, which was brought into the area by the Yankee troops.

Pastora encloses in his letter to Rivera a list of preventive measures prepared by the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica. In his letter, Pastora says that his friends -- the Americans -- are very worried over the spread of AIDS and also points out that they are collecting information on the cases that have been confirmed in the area, particularly among drug addicts and homosexuals.

PSN LEADER VIEWS HONDURAN BORDER SITUATION

PA310340 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] In an interview for this newscast, Luis Sanchez Sancho, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN], said that the current political and military situation in the country demands that all Nicaraguans close ranks in defense of our territorial integrity. Sanchez Sancho said that the United States is increasingly radicalizing its aggression against our country and that therefore the Contadora Group and its Support Group, as well as other international organizations, should step up their political efforts in order to counter the interventionist plans in Central America. Here is the statement made by PSN leader Sanchez Sancho:

[Begin recording] We have been following these developments with great concern, as they have occurred simultaneously with several situations that we believe did not happen by coincidence: for instance, the approval by the U.S. Senate last Thursday of the $100 million requested by Reagan for the contras together with the recent situation on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, the intensification of counterrevolutionary actions, and the counteroffensive blows dealt by the Sandinist People's Army, which were followed by U.S. and Honduran charges of an alleged incursion of Nicaraguan troops in Honduran territory. We view this as a more serious involvement of the U.S. Government in a conflict that is becoming more militarized and expanding, and which seems to minimize the possibilities of finding political, peaceful, and negotiated solutions for the red-hot Central American conflict.

We believe that as the president of the Republic said at a press conference on Friday, it is time for the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group to become more politically involved in this situation, particularly through the creation of a verification and control commission that will determine the real situation on the border, and by mediating in order to prevent the situation from becoming even worse. I believe the situation is very delicate, that the U.S. strategy shows a growing radicalization, and that President Reagan and the reactionary and warmongering circles surrounding him are apparently determined to take the situation to levels of total confrontation. This should be a call to all Nicaraguans to close ranks in defense of our national sovereignty and our territorial integrity, and of our right to self-determination, independently of the political or ideological differences we may have regarding our domestic affairs. [end recording]

COMMENTARY ON IDB MEETING, UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS

PA311534 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The 27th IDB meeting concluded its deliberations with more problems than achievements and had no solutions for the vital aspect of the Latin American foreign debt. The debt topic was the most discussed in the meeting and it was the unanimous conclusion that this problem is becoming an increasingly heavy burden and is also a destabilizing factor.

The obstructing work of the United States was noticed. The U.S. representatives disagreed with the petitions of Latin American nations for the IDB to make changes in its structures and begin playing the role that it should truly play in the problem of the foreign debt.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries had united positions in various aspects of the discussions, which displeased the U.S. delegation and other delegations of Western industrialized nations. The Latin American representatives clearly stated that they are greatly upset about the treatment that developed capitalist countries have so far given to the problem of the foreign debt, which results in the stagnation of economies and in social conflicts.

A sign of the selfishness that characterizes the United States was the position of its representatives at the IDB meeting. These representatives uselessly tried to change the voting system within the organization. The White House was trying to eliminate the possibility that a majority of Latin American countries could influence the IDB agreements to the detriment of U.S. interests. To Washington, it is essential that international economic organizations be under its control to use them as a lever of extortion and blackmail against independent governments.

The ultimatum of the U.S. delegates at the meeting was within this framework. They said that their country could stop granting funds to the IDB unless the Latin Americans submit to Washington's orders.

Throughout the sessions there were many who favored the IDB's agreeing to deliver additional funds for development and advocating that the burden of the foreign debt be shared between the debtors and the rich creditors. For the United States, it was enough to tell its representatives to regret the consequences of the foreign debt without telling them to propose emergency measures aimed at arriving at real solutions to this negative problem.

The U.S. praise for the hackneyed Baker Plan found no echo in the Latin American delegates, who, in some cases, pointed to the many deficiencies of the project, which Ronald Reagan's government presented as an alleged panacea. Now that the IDB meeting is part of the past, to the observers it was explicit that its sessions were unable to objectively respond to the economic needs of Latin America.

SELA'S ALEGRETT: BAKER PLAN RESTRICTS ECONOMIES

PA310420 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Sebastian Alegrett, SELA executive secretary, has reiterated that it is most important to strengthen Latin America's autonomy to resolve its economic problems without supervisors, and to start on the road to development. Alegrett said at a news conference in Havana that the Baker Plan does not resolve Latin America's foreign debt problem because of the limited resources it offers and, especially, because it restricts the economy of the countries of the region.

He said that South America is living through a period of much economic weakness because of the foreign debt pressure, short-term payments, the drop in the prices of raw materials, and protectionism imposed by the developed capitalist countries. Alegrett pointed to Cuba as an example of economic growth not subject to the norms imposed by the IMF.

RADIO COMMENTARY ON RECENT HAITIAN DEVELOPMENTS

PA311232 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Only a few weeks after the downfall of Jean-Claude Duvalier's dictatorship and his replacement by a civilian-military government council created following Washington's instructions, the Haitian masses seem to have lost all hopes in the new authorities and have resumed their struggle again, returning to the days that preceded the end of a dynasty that lasted almost 3 decades.

Multitudes, loudly demanding the resignation of Lieutenant General Henry Namphy, president of the Government Council, barricades, and bonfires were the predominant notes in Haiti during the past few days, showing that the Haitian people will not be stopped by imperialist maneuvers and that they demand absolute victory.

A few days ago Elliott Abrams, who is responsible for inter-American affairs at the U.S. State Department, bragged about the supposedly master blow of Washington with the replacement of Duvalier by a government molded according to the White House's prerequisites. However, the situation in Haiti again seems to be slipping away from the hands of the Yankee authorities, and at any time the popular struggle that was supposed to be curbed with the dictatorship's ouster could burst the artificial barriers created by the U.S. Government.

Recently 7,000 people went into the streets in Port-au-Prince to demand the installation of a civilian government and protest the appointment of a cabinet in which individuals formerly linked with repression occupy important positions.

The independent station Radio Metropol reported that similar demonstrations occurred in other Haitian cities.

In reality, Henri Namphy, who apparently considers himself omnipotent, brought the fire closer to the gunpowder when he decided to give ministerial positions to such discredited men as the former chief of Duvalier's army and the commander of the Port-au-Prince prison.

Another circumstance that added to the current government's crisis was the resignation of Justice Minister Gerard Gourgue, the only civilian in the Government Council, who said that the current authorities are incapable of finding solutions for the people's great needs.

Such factors and a popular struggle that is gaining force can seriously endanger the Yankee projects in Haiti and turn the domestic situation in one of the poorest countries on the planet into one truly uncontrollable for Washington. The fate of Henry Namphy and those who have supported Washington's maneuver can either be the same as Jean-Claude Duvalier or they can face popular justice.

REPORTAGE ON CANDIDATES IN MAY GENERAL ELECTION

MCN, Structure Party Join Forces

FL311830 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 4

[Excerpt] Yesterday the National Conciliation Movement [MCN] selected Jacobo Majutla as its presidential candidate during a convention held at San Lazaro's sports and cultural club. The selection is a result of an agreement signed between the MCN and the Structure Party headed by Andres Vanderhorst who attended the event. The Structure, which also has Majutla as its presidential candidate, and the MCN agreed to unite their nominees for next May's elections in an agreement signed during the convention and ratified by the delegates in attendance.

Party Nominations Reported

PA010133 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2055 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 31 Mar (DPA) -- The deadline for nominating candidates for May general elections in the Dominican Republic expires tonight and still the main opposition party and former President Joaquin Balaguer have not said who will be their vice presidential candidates. Balaguer said he would make the announcement today but refused to name possible candidates, saying only that he had "many names" to choose from Only four parties have submitted their lists with all their candidates to the Central Electoral Board, (JCE). These parties are: the Dominican Liberation Party, (PLD); the Dominican Communist Party, (PDC); the National Conciliation Movement, (MCN); and the Democratic Quisqueyan Party, (PQD). The ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, [PRD] has registered only the names of its candidates for president and vice president. The PRD's presidential candidate is Jacobo Majluta, and businessman Nicolas Vargas is the candidate for vice president. The PRD's presidential candidate is Jacabo Majlura, and businessman Nicolas Vargas is the candidate for vice president. The PLD's presidential candidate is former President Juan Bosch, and Jose Joaquin Bido is the vice presidential candidate. Narciso Isa Conde is the PCD presidential candidate. The MCN is supporting the PRD's presidential and vice presidential candidates. Retired General Elias Wessin y Wessin is presidential candidate and Luis Antonio Vasquez is the vice presidential candidate for the PQD. The general elections in the Dominican Republic are slated for 16 May 1986.

Pena Gomez To Run in 1990

FL272312 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 1, 12

[Excerpts] Yesterday Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said nobody should obstruct the path in his search for the Presidency of the Republic in 1990 and asserted that if the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] does not nominate him to the post, then the Institutional Bloc [Bloque Institucional] will. Pena Gomez, who is also national district representative [sindico] and PRD leader, said he is about to turn 50 and deserves that position within his party. After reiterating that after 16 August it will be his turn, Pena Gomez asserted: I believe no one should stand in my way, and this is why the PRD should nominate me. But if the PRD does not nominate me, I will go directly to the institutional bloc. The district representative and president of the Institutional Bloc said he is not interested in running for senator. The Senate has a disadvantage for me; first, I believe the country is tired of controversies, complaints, and the struggles of the PRD followers and, above all, of the quarrels between legislative and executive power officials. He added that he is certain that if he goes to the Senate there will be clashes between Jacobo Majutla and himself because There are big ideological differences between them, different ideas about politics, society, and life.

MURRAY DETAILS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

FL312130 Bridgetown CANA in English 2054 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Gerogetown, Guyana, March 31, CANA -- Guyana is to buy U.S. 3.5 million dollars worth of Cuban goods and sell a similar amount of local commodities to Cuba this year under a new bilateral trade agreement, Trade Minister Winston Murray announced.

The barter deal was signed at the end of a recent meeting of the Guyana-Cuba joint commission in Havana.

Guyana will import mainly cement, tobacco, salt, and detergent and ship mainly rice, timber, and furniture to Havana.

The meeting also agreed on economic and technical co-operation arrangements, including a joint-venture agriculture project, Murray said at the weekend. This joint commission really represents a reaffirmation of the commitment of the two countries to intensify trade and technical co-operation, he said. Under a half million Canadian dollar revolving line of credit, also agreed on at the meeting, Guyana will also import certain high priority commodities from Cuba. Priority will be given to pharmaceuticals.

Discussions are to be held to determine what local commodities Cuba will receive as payment.

Murray, who headed the local delegation to the talks, said Guyana had expressed its intention to purchase on a commercial basis, subject to competitiveness and satisfactory quality, certain Cuban products, including spares for the sugar industry. In the area of economic co-operation, he said Cuba was very keen on a joint-venture project with Guyana for the production of beans. Part of the output of the proposed venture would be exported to Cuba, which currently imports U.S. 20 million dollars worth of beans annually.

Several aspects of technical co-operation were discussed at the meeting, including co-operation in the areas of glass manufacture, processed foods, tobacco cultivation, processing and handling, and health services.

Cuban technical assistance will also be forthcoming in ceramics and the production of yogurt and cheese.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

FL282217 Bridgetown CANA in English 2019 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 28 CANA -- The new Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guyana Luis Enrique Figueroa Aguilar will present his credentials to vice president for social development, Viola Burnham, tomorrow, the government said.

The ambassador, a member of the Sandinist Assembly, served from July last year as his country's ambassador to Cuba and previously held various ministerial portfolios. He also served as president of Nicaragua's Central Bank. He is a graduate in economics and agriculture engineering.